

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/1058: Cabana, Silverwood Copse, West Chiltington.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

No representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The trees the subject of this application is a mature Oak ref T3 of Order No. 0607. The tree is situated within the rear garden of the applicant's property. The tree has been the subject of a number of applications to manage its size and relationship with the surrounding residential setting since it was formally protected on the 01/06/1988.

2. The application is supported by a report prepared by the tree owner's arboricultural contractor, which identifies the absence of live foliage within the crown, the presence of beetle exit holes, and areas of necrotic and detached bark. During my site inspection, it was evident that the tree is dead. Extensive areas of bark have become detached from the main stem and numerous insect exit holes were observed throughout the lower trunk. No live foliage or evidence of physiological activity was present.

3. Whilst no detailed pathological investigation has been undertaken, the symptoms observed on site, together with the information contained within the submitted report, are consistent with Acute Oak Decline (AOD). AOD is an emerging and significant disease affecting oak trees in the UK, principally pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*). The disease is characterised by the development of stem lesions beneath the bark, stem bleeding, bark cracking and deterioration, and is frequently associated with the presence of the native oak jewel beetle (*Agrilus biguttatus*), whose characteristic D-shaped exit holes may be visible on affected stems. Trees can exhibit rapid decline and may die within a relatively short period following the onset of symptoms.

4. Having regard to the tree's current condition and the clear evidence that it is dead, it is considered that the proposed removal is justified and reasonable. The tree no longer provides the amenity benefits for which it was originally protected, and, given its deteriorating condition, retention would serve little arboricultural purpose.

5. On balance It is considered that the proposed works are reasonable and justified and will not cause harm to the character and amenities of the locality primarily due to the trees current contribution being very limited in its dead form. Due to the number of protected trees at the appellants property, coupled with additional; mature tree coverage in area a condition requiring a replacement tree is not considered to be necessary in this instance.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. TR2 | <i>Time limit, 2 years</i> |
| 2. TR3 | <i>Treeworks limit (standard)</i> |
| TINF1 | <i>Note to applicant.</i> |
| TINF2 | <i>Wildlife protection.</i> |

DELEGATED

Authorising Officer sign.....ANBU.....**Arboricultural Officer (Strategic Planning).**

Date.....08 Oct 26...